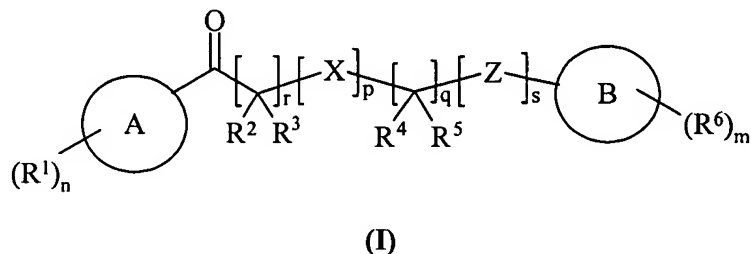


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting 11 β HSD1, comprising administering a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

Ring A is selected from aryl or heteroaryl;

R¹ is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkanoyl, C₁₋₆alkanoyloxy, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkanoylamino, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonyl, N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y-; or two **R¹** groups on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC₁₋₄alkoxy group or a C₃₋₅alkylene group; wherein **R¹** may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~with one or more **R⁷** groups ~~selected from R⁷~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~with an R⁸ group ~~selected from R⁸~~;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of **R¹** may be the same or different;

R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl, and heterocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl; or

R² and R³ together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein **R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵** may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~with one or more **R⁹** groups ~~selected from R⁹~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~with an R¹⁰ group ~~selected from R¹⁰~~;

X and **Z** are independently selected from $-\text{CR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_a-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NR}^{13}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^{14}-$, $-\text{NR}^{15}\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{16}-$, ~~or~~ and $-\text{NR}^{16}\text{SO}_2-$; wherein *a* is 0 to 2;

r is 1 or 2;

q is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

s is 0 or 1;

Ring B is carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an $-\text{NH}-$ moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by an R^{17} group ~~selected from R^{17}~~ ;

R⁶ is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyloxy, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-4} alkanoylamino, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C_{1-4} alkyl $\text{S}(\text{O})_a$ wherein *a* is 0 to 2, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyl C_{0-4} alkylene-**Y**, and heterocyclyl C_{0-4} alkylene-**Y**; wherein **R⁶** may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{18} groups ~~selected from R^{18}~~ ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an $-\text{NH}-$ moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{19} group ~~selected from R^{19}~~ ;

m is 0-3; wherein the values of **R⁶** may be the same or different;

Y is $-\text{S}(\text{O})_a-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NR}^{20}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^{21}-$, $-\text{NR}^{22}\text{C}(\text{O})-$, or $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{23}-$; wherein *a* is 0 to 2;

R⁷, **R⁹**, and **R¹⁸** are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyloxy, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-4} alkanoylamino, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C_{1-4} alkyl $\text{S}(\text{O})_a$ wherein *a* is 0 to 2, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, and heterocyclyl; wherein **R⁷**, **R⁹**, and **R¹⁸** may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{26} groups;

R¹¹ and **R¹²** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂amino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyl C_{1-4} alkyl, and heterocyclyl C_{1-4} alkyl; wherein **R¹¹** and **R¹²** may be independently

optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{24} ~~groups selected from R^{24}~~ ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{25} ~~group selected from R^{25}~~ ;

R^{24} is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyloxy, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-4} alkanoylamino, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C_{1-4} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, and C_{1-4} alkylsulphonylamino;

R^8 , R^{10} , R^{17} , R^{19} , and R^{25} are independently selected from C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, and phenylsulphonyl; wherein R^8 , R^{10} , R^{17} , R^{19} , and R^{25} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{27} ~~groups~~;

R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{20} , R^{21} , R^{22} , and R^{23} are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^{26} and R^{27} are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, N -methyl- N -ethylamino, acetylamino, N -methylcarbamoyl, N -ethylcarbamoyl, N,N -dimethylcarbamoyl, N,N -diethylcarbamoyl, N -methyl- N -ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphanyl, ethylsulphanyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, N -methylsulphamoyl, N -ethylsulphamoyl, N,N -dimethylsulphamoyl, N,N -diethylsulphamoyl, and ~~or~~ N -methyl- N -ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

~~in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11 β HSD1;~~

with the proviso that said compound is not (1-methyl-1-pyrid-3-ylethyl)-(pyrid-3-yl)-ketone.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~method use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein Ring A is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, benzothiazolyl, and ~~or~~ benzothienyl.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~methoduse of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in either of~~ claim 1, ~~or claim 2~~ wherein R¹ is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, *N,N*-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, and heterocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y-; or two R¹ groups on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC₁₋₄alkoxy group; wherein R¹ may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R⁷ groups selected from R⁷;

Y is -S(O)_a-, or -O-; wherein a is 0 to 2; and

R⁷ is halo.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~methoduse of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of~~ claims 1, ~~[[-3]]~~ wherein R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl, and heterocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl; wherein R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R⁹ groups selected from R⁹; and wherein

R⁹ is selected from halo, cyano, C₁₋₄alkyl, and *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~methoduse of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of~~ claims 1, ~~[[-6]]~~ wherein X is -S(O)_a-, -O-, -NR¹³-, -NR¹⁵C(O)-, -SO₂NR¹⁶-, or -NR¹⁶SO₂-; wherein a is 0 or 2; and

R¹³, R¹⁵, and R¹⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl, and C₁₋₄alkyl.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~methoduse of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of~~ claims 1, ~~[[-5]]~~ wherein Ring B is phenyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, piperidiny, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1,3-dihydroisoindolyl, morpholinyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, benzimidazolyl, or pyrimidinyl; wherein if Ring B contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R¹⁷ group selected from R¹⁷;

R¹⁷ is C₁₋₄alkyl or benzyl; wherein R¹⁷ may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R²⁷ groups; wherein and

R²⁷ is methoxy.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~method use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1, [[-6]]~~ wherein R⁶ is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 or 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, and carbocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y-; wherein R⁶ may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by with~~ one or more R¹⁸ groups selected from R¹⁸; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by with~~ an R¹⁹ group selected from R¹⁹;

Y is -C(O) or -C(O)NR²¹-;

R¹⁸ is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkoxy, and heterocyclyl;

R¹⁹ is heterocyclyl; and

R²¹ is hydrogen.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~method use of a compound of formula (I) (as depicted in claim 1, [[D]])~~ wherein:

Ring A is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, benzothiazolyl, and ~~or~~ benzothienyl;

R¹ is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, *N,N*-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, and heterocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y-; or two R¹ groups on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC₁₋₄alkoxy group; wherein R¹ may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by with~~ one or more R⁷ groups selected from R⁷;

Y is -S(O)_a-, or -O-; wherein a is 0 to 2; and

R⁷ is halo[[.]];

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R¹ may be the same or different;

r is 1 or 2;

s is 0;

R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl, and heterocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl;

wherein R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^9 ~~groups selected from R^9~~ ; wherein

R^9 is selected from halo, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, and N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂amino[[]];

X is -S(O)_a-, -O-, -NR¹³-, -NR¹⁵C(O)-, -SO₂NR¹⁶-, or -NR¹⁶SO₂-; wherein a is 0 or 2; and

R^{13} , R^{15} , and R^{16} are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-4} alkyl;

q is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

Ring B is phenyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1,3-dihydroisindolyl, morpholinyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, benzimidazolyl, or pyrimidinyl; wherein if Ring B contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{17} ;

R^{17} is C_{1-4} alkyl or benzyl; wherein R^{17} may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{27} ~~groups~~; wherein

R^{27} is methoxy;

R^6 is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-4} alkanoylamino, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C_{1-4} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 or 2, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, and carbocyclyl C_{0-4} alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{18} ~~groups selected from R^{18}~~ ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{19} ~~group selected from R^{19}~~ ;

Y is -C(O) or -C(O)NR²¹-;

R^{18} is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, and heterocyclyl;

R^{19} is heterocyclyl; and

R^{21} is hydrogen; and

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R^6 may be the same or different[[]];

~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;~~

~~in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11 β HSD1;~~

~~with the proviso that said compound is not (1-methyl-1-pyrid-3-ylethyl)-(pyrid-3-yl)-ketone.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) ~~(as depicted in claim 1)~~ selected from:

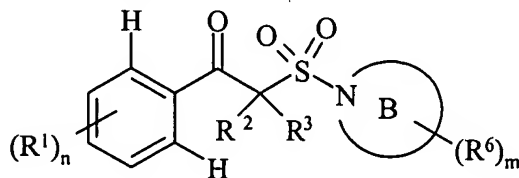
[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(pyrid-3-yl)ethyl]-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
 [2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(pyrazin-2-yl)ethyl]-(pyridin-3-yl)-ketone;
 (α -methylamino-4-chlorobenzyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
 (benzothiazol-2-yl)-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (thiazol-2-yl)-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 [1-(morpholinosulphonyl)-1-methylethyl]-(4-fluorophenyl)-ketone;
 (4-fluorophenyl)-[*N*-(cyclohexyl)-*N*-(isopropyl)sulphamoylmethyl]-ketone;
 (4-fluorophenyl)-[*N*-(pyrid-2-yl)-*N*-(methyl)sulphamoylmethyl]-ketone;
 (4-methylphenylsulphonylmethyl)-(4-cyanophenyl)-ketone;
 (4-ethoxyphenoxyethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
 (4-chlorophenyl)-[3-(2,6-difluorobenzoylamino) propyl]-ketone; and
 (4-chlorophenyl)-[3-(4-methoxyphenylsulphonylamino)propyl]-ketone;
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~method use of a compound of formula (I) (as depicted in claim 1, [I])~~ wherein the compound of formula (I) is selected from:

(α -methyl- α -hydroxy-4-chlorobenzyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
 (morpholinosulphonylmethyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)-ketone;
 (*N*-methyl-4-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone; and
 (*N*-methyl-4-chloroanilinomethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof[;]

~~in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11 β HSD1.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ij):



(Ij)

wherein:

R¹ is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₂₋₆alkynyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkanoyl, C₁₋₆alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₆alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C₁₋₆alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y-; or two **R¹** groups on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC₁₋₄alkoxy group or a C₃₋₅alkylene group; wherein **R¹** may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more **R⁷** groups ~~selected from **R⁷**~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by an **R⁸** group ~~selected from **R⁸**~~;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of **R¹** may be the same or different;

R² and **R³** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl, and heterocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl; or **R²** and **R³** together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein **R²** and **R³** may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more **R⁹** groups ~~selected from **R⁹**~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an **R¹⁰** group ~~selected from **R¹⁰**~~;

Ring B is a heterocyclyl linked to the sulphonyl of the compound of formula (Ij) via a nitrogen atom; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an **R¹⁷** group ~~selected from **R¹⁷**~~;

R⁶ is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y-; wherein **R⁶** may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more **R¹⁸** groups ~~selected from **R¹⁸**~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an **R¹⁹** group ~~selected from **R¹⁹**~~;

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R^6 may be the same or different;

Y is $-S(O)_a-$, $-O-$, $-NR^{20}-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{21}-$, $-NR^{22}C(O)-$ or $-SO_2NR^{23}-$; wherein a is 0 to 2;

R^7 , R^9 , and R^{18} are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyloxy, $N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino$, $N,N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2amino$, $C_{1-4}alkanoylamino$, $N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl$, $N,N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2carbamoyl$, $C_{1-4}alkylS(O)_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, $C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl$, $N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl$, $N,N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2sulphamoyl$, $C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino$, carbocyclyl, and heterocyclyl; wherein R^7 , R^9 , and R^{18} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{26} groups;

R^8 , R^{10} , R^{17} , and R^{19} are independently selected from C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, $C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl$, carbamoyl, $N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl$, $N,N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2carbamoyl$, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, and phenylsulphonyl; wherein R^8 , R^{10} , R^{17} , and R^{19} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{27} groups;

R^{20} , R^{21} , R^{22} , and R^{23} are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, $C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl$, and $C_{1-4}alkyl$;

R^{26} and R^{27} are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, N -methyl- N -ethylamino, acetylamino, N -methylcarbamoyl, N -ethylcarbamoyl, N,N -dimethylcarbamoyl, N,N -diethylcarbamoyl, N -methyl- N -ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphanyl, ethylsulphanyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, N -methylsulphamoyl, N -ethylsulphamoyl, N,N -dimethylsulphamoyl, N,N -diethylsulphamoyl, and ~~or~~ N -methyl- N -ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the proviso that said compound is not

(phenyl)-[α -(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone;

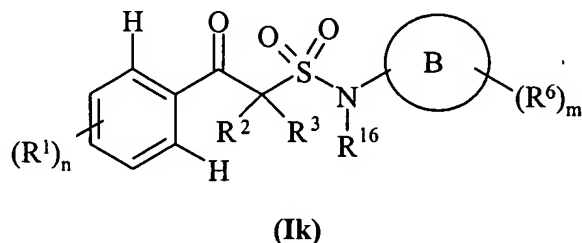
(phenyl)-[α -(morpholinosulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone;

(4-carbamoylphenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-carbamoylphenyl)-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-fluorophenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 (phenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 (4-chlorophenyl)-(piperazin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (4-chlorophenyl)-[4-(*t*-butoxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 (4-hydroxyphenyl)-(morpholinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone; or
 (phenyl)-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone; ~~and with the proviso that~~
 when R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen, m is 0, and Ring B is 4-methylpiperazin-1-yl, then $(R^1)_n$ is not
 hydrogen, 4-fluoro, 4-nitro, 3,4-dimethoxy, 4-methoxy, 4-*t*-butyl, 4-trifluoromethyl, or 4-chloro;
 and ~~with the proviso that~~
 when R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen, m is 0, and Ring B is morpholino, then $(R^1)_n$ is not hydrogen,
 4-dimethylamino, 4-nitro, 4-methoxy, 4-*t*-butyl, 4-trifluoromethyl, or 4-fluoro or 4-chloro.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ik):



wherein:

R^1 is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphonyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-6} alkyl) $_2$ amino, C_{1-6} alkanoylamino, N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-6} alkyl) $_2$ carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O) $_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)sulphonyl, N,N -(C_{1-6} alkyl) $_2$ sulphonyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyl C_{0-6} alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclyl C_{0-6} alkylene-Y-; or
 two R^1 groups on adjacent carbons may form an oxy C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a C_{3-5} alkylene group;
 wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^7 groups ~~selected from R^7~~ ;
 and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^8 group ~~selected from R^8~~ ;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl) $_2$ amino, C_{1-4} alkylS(O) $_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2,

C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl, and heterocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl; or

R² and R³ together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein R² and R³ may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by with~~ one or more R⁹ groups selected from R⁹; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by with an R¹⁰ group selected from R¹⁰~~;

Ring B is carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by with an R¹⁷ group selected from R¹⁷~~;

R⁶ is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y-; wherein R⁶ may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by with~~ one or more R¹⁸ groups selected from R¹⁸; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by with an R¹⁹ group selected from R¹⁹~~;

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R⁶ may be the same or different;

Y is -S(O)_a-, -O-, -NR²⁰-, -C(O)-, -C(O)NR²¹-, -NR²²C(O)-, or -SO₂NR²³-; wherein a is 0 to 2;

R⁷, R⁹, and R¹⁸ are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, and heterocyclyl; wherein R⁷, R⁹, and R¹⁸ may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by with~~ one or more R²⁶ groups;

R⁸, R¹⁰, R¹⁷, and R¹⁹ are independently selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, and

phenylsulphonyl; wherein R^8 , R^{10} , R^{17} , and R^{19} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{27} groups;

R^{16} , R^{20} , R^{21} , R^{22} , and R^{23} are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^{26} and R^{27} are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphanyl, ethylsulphanyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl, and ~~or~~ *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the proviso that said compound is not

(phenyl)-(5-methylpyrazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(2-methyl-6-methoxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-4-yl)aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(1-phenyl-3-methylpyrazol-5-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-[1-(cyclohexyl-*N*-methylaminosulphonyl)ethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[1-(phenyl-*N*-methylaminosulphonyl)ethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(cyclohexylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(2-phenyl-4-acetyl-5-methylimidazol-3-yl)-*N*-methylaminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(2-phenyl-4-acetyl-5-methylimidazol-3-yl)aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(2,4,5,6,7,8-hexahydrocycloheptapyrazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-2H-indazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(4-phenyl-5-methylpyrazol-3-yl)aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[3-(1-carboxymethyl-3-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophthalazin-2-yl)anilinosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-{3-[1-(methoxycarbonylmethyl)-3-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophthalazin-2-yl]anilinosulphonylmethyl}-ketone; (phenyl)-(4-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(2-benzoyl-4-chloroanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(2,3-dimethylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(3,4-dimethylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(3-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
(phenyl)-(3-methoxyanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
(phenyl)-(anilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone; (phenyl)-(2-acetylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone; or
(phenyl)-[α -(*N*-ethylanilinosulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone.

13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula ~~(I), (Ij) or (Ik)~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, ~~as claimed in any one of claims 9, 11 or 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,~~ in association with a pharmaceutically[[-]] acceptable diluent or carrier.

14. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula ~~(I), (Ij) or (Ik)~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, ~~as claimed in method for inhibiting 11 β HSD1, comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 9, 11, or 12, for use in a method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a warm-blooded animal, such as man.~~

15-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a metabolic syndrome, comprising inhibiting 11 β HSD1~~The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims claim 1-8, or 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11 β HSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of metabolic syndrome.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a disease selected from~~The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11 β HSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of diabetes, obesity, hyperlipidaemia, hyperglycaemia, hyperinsulinemia, and or hypertension, comprising inhibiting 11 β HSD1 as claimed in claim 1 or 10~~particularly diabetes and obesity.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a disease selected from~~The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11 β HSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of~~glaucoma, osteoporosis, tuberculosis,

dementia, cognitive disorders or depression, comprising inhibiting 11 β HSD1 as claimed in claim 1 or 10.

20. (Cancelled).